

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

**Listing of Claims:**

1. (Cancelled)
2. (Currently amended) A process for the production of fine chemical comprising increasing or generating in an organism or a part thereof the expression of at least one nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:
  - a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof, which confers an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;
  - b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1; and
  - c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide having at least 70% 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) to (b) and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof; and
  - ~~d) a nucleic acid molecule which hybridizes with the nucleic acid molecule of (a) to (b) under stringent hybridization conditions and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;~~or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, by introducing the nucleic acid molecule into the organism or part thereof, and growing the organism or part thereof under conditions which permit the production of the at least one fine chemical in said organism or [[a]] part thereof, and recovering the at least one fine chemical produced by the organism or part thereof, wherein the at least one fine chemical comprises at least one compound is selected from the group consisting of amino acids, carbohydrates, vitamins, organic acids, fatty acids, and carotinoids carotenoids.
3. (Cancelled)
4. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2 further comprising the following steps:
  - a) selecting an organism or a part thereof expressing the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule characterized in claim 2;

- b) mutagenizing the selected organism or the part thereof;
- c) comparing the activity or the expression level of said polypeptide in the mutated organism or the part thereof with the activity or the expression of said polypeptide of the selected organism or the part thereof;
- d) selecting the mutated organism or the part thereof, which comprises an increased activity or expression level of said polypeptide compared to the selected organism or the part thereof;
- e) optionally, growing and cultivating the organism or the part thereof; and
- f) recovering, and optionally isolating, the free or bound fine chemical produced by the selected mutated organism or the part thereof.

5. (Previously presented) The process of claim 2, wherein the activity of said polypeptide or the expression of said nucleic acid molecule is increased or generated transiently or stably.

6-31. (Cancelled)

32. (Currently amended) The process of claim 2, wherein the nucleic acid molecule encodes a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2 and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in ~~an~~ the organism or a part thereof.

33. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the organism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, fungi, algae, non-human animals and plants.

34. (New) The process of claim 2, wherein the organism is a plant.

35. (New) A process for the production of fine chemical comprising increasing or generating in an organism or part thereof the expression of at least one nucleic acid molecule selected from the group consisting of:

- a) a nucleic acid molecule encoding the polypeptide as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 2, or a fragment thereof, which confers an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;
- b) a nucleic acid molecule comprising the nucleotide sequence as depicted in SEQ ID NO: 1; and

c) a nucleic acid molecule which encodes a polypeptide having at least 95% sequence identity with the amino acid sequence of the polypeptide encoded by the nucleic acid molecule of (a) to (b) and conferring an increase in the amount of fine chemical in an organism or a part thereof;  
or a nucleotide sequence complementary thereto, by introducing the nucleic acid molecule into the organism or part thereof, and growing the organism or part thereof under conditions which permit the production of the fine chemical in said organism or part thereof, wherein the organism is selected from the group consisting of bacteria, fungi, algae, non-human animals and plants.

36. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the organism is a plant.

37. (New) The process of claim 35, wherein the activity of said polypeptide or the expression of said nucleic acid molecule is increased or generated transiently or stably.